



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://latchildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, October 6, 2014

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING (14-4614)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order. (14-4248)

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

Present: Commissioners Candace Cooper, Patricia Curry, Ann E. Franzen, Helen Kleinberg, Adrienne Konigar-Macklin, Liz Seipel, Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, Vice Chair Sydney Kamlager, Vice Chair Carol O. Biondi and Chair Susan F. Friedman

Excused: Commissioners Genevra Berger, Dr. Sunny Kang, Steven M. Olivas Esq. and Martha Trevino-Powell

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introductions of October 6, 2014 meeting attendees. (14-4238)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the October 6, 2014 Meeting Agenda. (14-4239)

On motion of Commissioner Franzen, seconded by Commissioner Seipel (Commissioners Berger, Kang, Olivas and Trevino-Powell being absent), this item was approved.

3. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of September 15, 2014. (14-4271)

On motion of Commissioner Kleinberg, seconded by Commissioner Cooper (Commissioners Berger, Kang, Olivas and Trevino-Powell being absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: [September 15, 2014 Minutes](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Chair's report for October 6, 2014 by Susan Friedman, Chair. (14-4240)

Chair Friedman reported on the following:

- **The Transition Team meeting for the Office of Child Protection meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 6, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. in the Board Hearing Room 381B.**
- **The Commission for Children and Families Retreat is scheduled for October 20, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Community Partners in Los Angeles. Additional information will be provided by staff prior to the Retreat.**
- **The Los Angeles County-Auditor Controller requires each County department to conduct an unannounced Payroll Audit annually to ensure that all employees receiving warrants or deposit notices are bona fide employees. Staff is available to complete the requirements for this process.**
- **"All for the Love of Kids" is being held on Wednesday, October 8, 2014, at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 8th Floor Balcony. Tickets are being sold online, or you may pay at the door. All proceeds benefit the Children's Trust Fund, which has provided foster youth with services and opportunities, such as orthodontia, academic tutors, educational field trips, sports equipment, etc. for more than 45 years.**
- **The Public Safety Cluster meeting scheduled for October 8, 2014 is cancelled. The next meeting is on Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at 10:00 a.m., Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in room 830.**
- **The Children and Families' Well Being Cluster meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2014 at 1:30 p.m., Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in room 743.**

- The Governor signed various bills pertaining to sex trafficking. One refers to wiretapping, and the other on providing education on the subject matter to the schools. A series of billboards will be implemented throughout the county, which will include the 20 digital and 20 regular billboards on sex trafficking.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Berger, Kang, Olivas and Trevino-Powell being absent), the Commission accepted the Chair's report.

5. Department of Children and Family Services Director's report for October 6, 2014 by Philip Browning, Director. (14-4241)

Director Browning reported on the following:

- DCFS planned to hire 450 Children's Social Workers (CSW); however, 470 CSW have been hired. The caseloads will not reduce immediately because the new hires, it will take approximately six months before they will take over a full caseload. The unions have requested meetings to provide information on the DCFS progress and goals; and the meetings are scheduled in October 2014. The union expressed hiring additional staff.
- Title IV-E Waiver plan; nine (9) counties have signed with San Diego and Sacramento being the larger of the counties. The plan includes three objectives with the core practice model not being negotiable, while the other two objectives are negotiable. A 3% inflation rate increase is included, which gives some flexibility to the program. A new independent evaluator will be hired by the State and the program technically expires in five years.
- DCFS has observed that when a child is taken into custody, criminal background checks for a relative takes a long time to clear. There is a new automated system in place, which delivers the criminal background checks within 30 minutes. This automated system is being piloted in the Glendora Office.
- Forty (40) counties have sent letters of intent to participate for the relative caregiver program. The rules and requirements are still unclear and DCFS has received many calls. DCFS noted that there is a problem with coding for claiming and cost. A code is assigned to a department, and the codes are used differently in various counties. According to the State's methodology, Los Angeles County has 1,500 eligible recipients for the program.

DCFS, in an attempt to test the codes, used its own methodology and the results doubled than those of the State. It appears that DCFS needs to conduct manual reviews to determine if it meets the criteria and refine its criteria to be eligible for the new program.

In response to questions posed by the Commissioners, Director Browning responded:

- The new program pays only for those who are eligible beginning July 1, 2014. About \$30 million has been set aside by the State for the program and the State is open to placing additional funds in the pot.
- The message is to treat every child alike, and they all should be receiving the same type of service. Some children may not be eligible for the State program.
- Customer Service is very important to DCFS and input from the members of the public is encouraged. The goal is to implement a system, which will survey the public's experience with the department, and create a Nordstrom's-like Customer Service experience.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Berger, Kang, Olivas and Trevino-Powell being absent), the Commission accepted Director Browning's report.

6. Commissioner Curry's report on the Transition Team for the Office of Child Protection. (14-4316)

Commissioner Curry reminded the Commissioners that Ms. Drew Ivie provides notes from the Transition Team for the Office of Child Protection (TTOCP) meetings via e-mail and encourages the Commissioners to refer to them as much as possible. Commissioner Curry indicated that at the last TTOCP meeting, Director Browning presented a presentation on the status of recommendations pertaining to the Department of Children and Family Services.

On September 22, 2014, Kim Belshe from First 5 LA, and Susan Boswick from the Department of Public Health, addressed the TTOCP on the recommendations regarding the development of a comprehensive plan to reduce the overall incidence of child abuse and neglect and to develop a countywide presentation. Commissioner Curry agreed to be the point person for this project and a pre-planning meeting is forthcoming.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Berger, Kang, Olivas and Trevino-Powell being absent), the Commission accepted Commissioner Curry's report.

III. PRESENTATIONS

- 7.** Presentation by Janis Spire, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Alliance for Children's Rights and Carol Chodroff, Director of the Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative

The Alliance for Children's Rights (Alliance) is the backbone of a new Youth Opportunity Collaborative, a multi-agency project to improve pathways to education and employment for transition-age foster youth (TAY), ages 16 - 24. (The term "TAY" includes youth aging out of foster care as well as those in danger of becoming cross-overs and youth exiting the Probation system.) (14-4498)

Janis Spire, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Alliance for Children's Rights, reported that the Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC) initiative is based on the Aspen Institute aspiration to improve the outcome for young people ages 16-24 that are disconnected from school and the work place. Los Angeles was a site selected for this project. Collaboration between the agencies is the key element of this project.

Carol Chodroff, Director of the Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative, reported that the goal is to improve the lives of 1,200 Transitional Youth in Los Angeles County. Ms. Chodroff mentioned the following policy and goals:

- **By coordinating services, leveraging community resources, aligning strategies and improving policies, Los Angeles Opportunity Youth partners creates an opportunity to establish sustainable reforms to improve three outcomes for transition age foster youth in Los Angeles County:**

**High school graduation and GED attainment
Postsecondary enrollment and credential completion
Workforce readiness and gainful employment**

- **Based on the Collective Impact Model, Opportunity Youth Collaborative will improve outcomes for the Transitional Youth by:**

**Establishing a Collaborative for Impact
Establishing a Governance Team
Establishing an Implementation Team**

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- **Collective ownership of a common goals among cross agency leaders and businesses working together to improve the lives of Transitional Youth.**
 - **Building Effective Pathways**
 - **Building a continuum of care for Transitional Youth that overcomes system barriers, and creates bridges to high school completion, higher education, and gainful employment**
 - **Collection of data, analysis of the information, and reporting of common metrics based on Transitional Youth access to services and outcomes**
 - **Leveraging Funding to Support and Sustain Innovation**
 - **Leverage existing resources to secure new public and private investments for Transitional Youth**
 - **Creating Policy and Systems Alignment**
 - **Developing a shared agenda for local, state, and federal policy advocacy and systems reform**

In response to questions posed by the Commissioners, Ms. Spire and Ms. Chordroff responded:

Specific information regarding the program will be provided to the Commission to be presented to the Board of Supervisors recommending their support of the project. The program will showcase the work that has been accomplished for the Transitional Youth. The program is working with labor based on the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act. The goal is to hire employees with previous foster youth experience to assist in managing the caseloads.

The starting point is to select youth randomly referred from the Southern and Eastern areas of Los Angeles. The goal is help 300 to 400 Transitional Youth in the first year of the program.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Berger, Kang, Olivas and Trevino-Powell being absent), the Commission accepted Ms. Spire and Ms. Chordroff's report.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

8. Presentation by Michelle Day, Auditor-Controller, Children's Group Home Ombudsman. (14-4499)

Michelle Day, Auditor Controller, Children's Group Home Ombudsman, provided a brief history on the Office of Ombudsman. The Board of Supervisors approved the recommendation of the Commission for Children and Families to establish the Office of the Ombudsman to be an independent and neutral problem-solver for youth placed in group homes by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The function was established in the Department of Auditor Controller.

Ms. Day reported that visits have been conducted at the group homes that have DCFS and DCFS/Probation youth. There are no visitations on group homes that have just Probation youth. The outreach visits are conducted in a friendly atmosphere and the youth can communicate with the Ombudsman during the visit.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Day replied that when a youth cannot locate their Social Worker, the Ombudsman utilizes the system available to locate the Social Worker/Supervisor assigned to the youth, and they suggest that they contact their charge immediately. It has been the experience that the Social Workers are responsive in these types of situations.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Berger, Kang, Olivas and Trevino-Powell being absent), the Commission accepted Ms. Day's report.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. COMMISSION EXECUTIVE LIAISON REPORT

9. Update by Sylvia Drew Ivie, Commission Executive Liaison, on the Commission's activities. (14-4243)

Sylvia Drew Ivie, Commission Executive Liaison, reported on the following:

- **The United Friends are awarding scholarships annually to youth who are attending college, and the Commission can refer youth to this program.**
- **The letter from the DCFS Director Philip Browning pertaining to the Approved Relative Caregiver Funding Option Program opting in by Los Angeles County was emailed to all Commissioners. In addition, a detailed memo on the number of legislative bills of interest to the Commission was also emailed.**
- **Chair Friedman would like input from the Commissioners on the topics to be discussed during the Retreat, and encouraged all Commissioners to attend. Commissioners Kang, Olivas and Sorkin will not be attending the Retreat.**

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Berger, Kang, Olivas and Trevino-Powell being absent), the Commission accepted Ms. Drew Ivie's report.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

10. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-4244)

There were none.

Announcements

11. Announcements for the meeting of October 6, 2014. (14-4500)

There were none.

Public Comment

12. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on item of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-4246)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

13. Adjournment of the meeting of October 6, 2014. (14-4247)

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.